

# NAF destroys terrorists' bases in Kaduna forests, kills scores

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

**THE** Nigerian Air Force (NAF), in one of the strikes carried out last Friday, at terrorist, Alhaji Layi's enclave, situated in Kufan Shantu Village in Giwa Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, eliminated several terrorists within the location, while their thatched roofed huts were burned down and their logistics, tucked under thick foliage, were destroyed.

NAF Director, Public Relations and Information, Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabbwet, in a statement, said similar air strikes conducted on Saturday, over terrorists' camps situated inside Malum Forest in Igabi LGA, also recorded positive outcomes after the targets were acquired and engaged.

He said: "From the battle damage assessment footage, the terrorists were observed freely loitering around the forest at a compound with zinc-roofed structures. Subsequently, a precision strike was authorised, which eliminated most of the terrorists. These air strikes were initiated following thorough credible human intelligence, along with intelligence surveillance, and reconnaissance operations, which identified the targeted

locations as enclaves of terrorists responsible for the ambush on troops at Manini on July 10, 2024.

"Accordingly, the Nigerian Air Force, alongside

surface forces, will maintain dominance in the battle space through extensive situational awareness, regular patrols, and targeted interdiction of terrorists' safe havens in its area of re-

sponsibility and neighbouring states. This approach aims to effectively eliminate and eradicate terrorism and other criminal activities in the North West and North Central regions".

## Industrial Court reinstates Bola-Audu as ASCSN president

From **Godwin Tsa**, Abuja

**THE** National Industrial Court (NICN) has re-affirmed Innocent Bola-Audu as the lawful President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants in Nigeria (ASCSN).

In a virtual judgment by the Abuja division of the court, Justice Oyewumi Oyebiola, held that the suspension of Bola-Audu by the Central Working Committee (CWC) of the association and his subsequent expulsion by the National Working Committee (NWC) was unlawful, illegal, null and void. Although the judgment was delivered on July 9, 2024, the certified true copy was made available to Daily Sun, yesterday.

Justice Oyebola held that Bola-Audu ought to have been reinstated as the President of ASCSN after the High Court of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), sitting in Maitama had cleared him of all criminal charges filed against him by the National Agency for

the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). Defendants in the suit are the Association of Senior Civil Servants in Nigeria (ASCSN), Bashir Alade Lawal and Tommy Etim-Onkon as first to third, respectively.

On Monday, February 22, 2021, NAPTIP arrested and detained Bola-Audu Innocent for alleged cases of human trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable persons. He was, however, cleared of all the allegations by the Abuja High Court, discharged and acquitted. Bola-Audu had, on July 15, 2022, by a general form of complaint, filed a suit before the industrial court, praying the court for the following orders: "A declaration that he is the lawful and substantive national president of the ASCSN. An order of the court mandating the ASCSN and all its organs reinstating him back to his elected position as national president of the ASCSN with immediate effect. An

order of the court mandating the ASCSN and its agents to ensure that he serves out his tenure of four years without any interruption.

"A declaration that the emergency meeting of the Central Working Committee requisitioned by the second defendant, held in March 2021, which purportedly reached a decision that he should step aside and the appointment of the third defendant as acting president, to replace him, is irregular, unlawful and illegal. The claimant also prayed the court for nine other declarations, with the 13th declaration being that "the sum of N3 million be awarded against the defendant as cost".

Justice Oyebola, while ruling on the preliminary objection filed by the defendants, held that they only raised the issue of jurisdiction after they had joined issues at the point where the claimant was almost closing his case.

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